

The SPAB meeting was called to order on February 10, 2021

Seyram Selase Chair

Elana Merriweather Co-Chair

Beverly Johnson Director – Office of Prevention/State of Alabama DMH

Gloria Howard

Angene Coleman

Shai Markis

Shalandra Rogers

Satavia Mann

Hannah Chandler

April Knight

Erin Burlison

Brandon Folks

Lauren Blanding

Kristin Johns

Vandlyn Pierre

Catina James

Liletta Jenkins

Nicole Shine

Carrie Wimberly

Necoal Driver

Danita Stapleton

Phillip Howard

Bruce Kimble – Secretary

Due to precautions related to the Covid-19 concerns, the SPAB meeting for February 10, 2021 was held as a “ZOOM” meeting.

Chair of the SPAB, Seyram Selase, called the SPAB meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Chair Selase called for the approval of the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made by April Knight, and seconded by Co-Chair, Elana Merriweather. The motion to accept the agenda was carried unanimously.

Chair Selase then called for the approval of the SPAB minutes for the November 19th SPAB meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Gloria Howard and seconded by Angene Coleman. The motion to accept the minutes from the November SPAB meeting was carried unanimously.

Chair Selase took a moment to wish everyone on the SPAB a Happy New Year. Chair Selase recapped the previous year and expressed a hope that the coming year would be a prosperous time.

At this time, Chair Selase turned the SPAB meeting over to Beverly Johnson – Director of the Office of Prevention for the Alabama Department of Mental Health – for the Office of Prevention report.

Ms. Johnson began her report with a wish for a Happy New Year for the members of the SPAB. Ms. Johnson reported that she would begin by providing the Board with some updates by the ADMH Office of Prevention.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Prevention Providers throughout the state have been able to continue to provide prevention services during Covid-19.

Ms. Johnson related that the ADMH office of Prevention have had some staff changes that she wished to report on at this time. Ms. Johnson related that the Commissioner of The Alabama Department of Mental Health, Lynn Beshear, has retired, and as of December 16, 2020, the current Commissioner of the ADMH is Kimberly Boswell. Ms. Johnson reported that Commissioner Boswell served as the Chief Operating Official with the ADMH under Commissioner Beshears.

Ms. Johnson reported that a new prevention consultant, Shalandra Rogers, has come on board, following the retirement of Mrs. Charon Douglass. Ms. Johnson took a moment to express gratitude for the years of service provided by Mrs. Douglass and extended a welcome to Ms. Rogers.

Ms. Rogers related that she began working in prevention in 2006 at the Lighthouse Counseling Center. Ms. Rogers went on to relate that she had spent some time in Texas, and upon her return, she worked at the Council on Substance Abuse.

Ms. Johnson continued her Office of Prevention report by reminding the SPAB that the State of Alabama was scheduled to host the 2021 National Prevention Networking Conference. Ms. Johnson reported that the Conference organizers have decided that the 2021 NPN Conference will be a “virtual” conference. As a result of this current situation, the State of Alabama is currently scheduled to host the 2022 NPN conference.

Ms. Johnson reported that Alabama Office of Prevention was featured during the Drug Enforcement Administration’s presentation during “Red Ribbon Week.” Ms. Johnson took a moment to recognize the Prevention Providers who participated in this event.

Ms. Johnson reported that the State of Alabama has been the recipient of the 9-8-8 State Implementation Grant which has a focus on suicide prevention. Ms. Johnson related that the Office of Prevention anticipates that the “roll-out” will be “fully effective” by July of 2022, and the planning stages of this “roll-out” will begin on February 11th.

Ms. Johnson related that The ADMH Office of Prevention developed a partnership with “Manufacture Alabama” to do a presentation on Substance Abuse Prevention and Mental Health Promotion. Ms. Johnson reported that this provides the Office of Prevention to connect with the private sector, as it relates to Human Resources (HR) services, as well as deal through this partnership issues that have been related to Covid-19. Ms. Johnson reported that this presentation was provided on December 9, 2020.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) “Over the Counter Safety Project” meeting was held on December 15, 2020.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Alabama Women’s Commission meeting was on December 16, 2020.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Community College Initiative will be sustained. Ms. Johnson went on to report that the Office of Prevention is currently in the process of releasing the Request for Proposals (RFP) for this Community College Initiative. Ms. Johnson reported that these RFP’s will be in place for the Fiscal Year 2022, and to go into Fiscal Year 2026.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Quarterly Prevention Provider meeting was held on January 21, 2021. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention participated in the Alabama Child Death Review Systems meeting, also on January 21st. Ms. Johnson went on to report that the Office of Prevention participated in the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board meeting, which, Ms. Johnson went on to report, was held on January 26, 2021.

Ms. Johnson reported that the CADCA Leadership Forum was held from February 1st through 4th. Ms. Johnson related that Carrie Wimberly of the Addiction Prevention Coalition presented at this Forum. Ms. Johnson related that Ms. Wimberly presented on the Alabama DFC “House Party” initiative. Ms. Johnson reported that she has been a part of the initial planning of this Forum, and “seeing it to fruition” was rewarding.

Ms. Johnson related that involvement of the Community Engagement of the Opioid Addictions Council is an important part of the coalition networking.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Adverse Childhood Experience training has continued in the effort to enhance workforce competencies in the areas as it relates to Adverse Childhood experiences.

Ms. Johnson related that the Opioid Prevention Efforts have continued. Ms. Johnson related that the Community Engagement Sub-Committee Meetings have continued, with the Latest meeting on December 11, 2020 and January 8, 2021. Ms. Johnson reported that there is a meeting scheduled for February 12, 2021.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention is currently developing a partnership with the University of Alabama, regarding a prescription overdose prevention grant.

Ms. Johnson reported on the State Opioid Response (SOR-2.0) has closed. Ms. Johnson reported that the ADMH Office of Prevention will be engaged in all necessary notifications.

Ms. Johnson reported on the suicide prevention efforts that the ADMH Office of Prevention had been involved in. Ms. Johnson reported that the new Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Maegan Ford, has been working with the Office of Prevention in the implementation of the 9-8-8 Grant (“roll-out expected by July of 2022), as well as the Suicide Prevention Advisory Board. Ms. Johnson advised that the Suicide Prevention Advisory Board meeting was held on January 11, 2021. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention is currently working with the Office of Veteran’s Affairs, on the “Governor’s Challenge.” Ms. Johnson reported that this “Challenge” is a SAMSHA driven initiative focusing on suicide prevention as it relates to Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention attended two

meetings in relation to these efforts, one on January 13, 2021 and the other on February 9, 2021.

Ms. Johnson called on Erin Burleson to report on workforce development. Ms. Burleson reported that the Office of Prevention completed training on Disruptive Behaviors on February 9, 2021. Ms. Burleson went on to report that the next workforce development training would be Coalition Development would be March 18, 2021. Ms. Burleson reported that the workforce development team is planning a training on a monthly basis.

Ms. Johnson called on Lauren Blanding of the Office of Prevention. Ms. Blanding reported that she is working with the provider network in the development of some creative ideas in relation to the provision of prevention services. Ms. Blanding related that she is currently developing some trainings with the providers in relation to this.

On the topic of funding, Ms. Johnson related that the ADMH office of Prevention Services is anticipating and increase in Block Grant funding. Ms. Johnson related that she would be sending out notifications as more information becomes available.

Ms. Johnson reported that, in relation to the SPF-RX, the Office of Prevention has the RFP prepared for release.

Ms. Johnson called on Brandon Folks to report on the Partnership For Success (PFS). Mr. Folks reported that coordinators are hired and services are now being provided. Mr. Folks reported that this was the final year for this initiative.

Ms. Johnson called on Lauren Blanding to report of the State Opioid Response (SOR). Ms. Blanding reported that this would also be the final year of the SOR.

Ms. Lauren Blanding reported that Jefferson County Health Department is providing an on-line Naloxone training, and this health department will be mailing out the available Naloxone kits.

Ms. Blanding reported that she will be sending out information regarding this training.

Chair Selase called for Old Business. Chair Selase reminded the Board that elections would be coming up. Chair Selase reported that the positions that would be coming up would be:

Chair

Co-Chair

Secretary

Chair Selase recommended that, on-line or in person, that the elections should be held on the May 5th meeting. Chair Selase reported that the Office of Prevention would be sending out descriptions of the offices up for elections. Chair Selase extended a personal thanks for everyone who served as officers.

Chair Selase went on to propose a provision of Office of Prevention awards to be given on an annual basis. Chair Selase discussed several areas and subcategories that awards could be given for.

Ms. Gloria Howard discussed the concept of a subcommittee to explore the award idea, as long as there is no conflict with any other award.

Chair Selase called for the motion, made by Ms. Gloria Howard that a subcommittee to explore the implementation of Office of Prevention awards be brought to a vote. This motion was seconded by Ms. Vandlyn Pierre. Chair Selase called for the vote, and the motion passed unanimously. The subcommittee that was chosen by the SPAB would consist of:

Gloria Howard
April Knight
Vandlyn Pierre
Nicole Shine
Danita Stapleton
Angene Coleman
Brandon Folks
Beverly Johnson

Chair Selase reported that the first meeting of this subcommittee would be April 21st. Chair Selase called on Ms. Beverly Johnson to introduce Ms. Carrie Wimberly. Ms. Johnson reported that she has worked with Ms. Wimberly in relation to the “house party” initiative, mentioned earlier. Ms. Johnson related that she had the opportunity to participate in the Forum, hosted by CADCA, in which Ms. Wimberly was the presenter. Ms. Johnson went on to introduce Ms. Carrie Wimberly.

Ms. Wimberly shared a power point presentation in relation to her work with some work she had been doing in coordination with the counterpoint in Detroit Michigan utilizing locator apps on smartphones. Ms. Wimberly related that this would simply offer positive prevention messages on social media, which would be an alternative to the messages that young people are “bombarded with.” Ms. Wimberly shared with the SPAB a “House Party” highlight reel. Ms. Wimberly discussed the importance, as well as relevant, use of media and contest in the area of getting the prevention message to masses of young people.

Ms. Wimberly shared with the SPAB a clip of the contest winner. Ms. Wimberly received some positive feedback from the SPAB regarding her efforts relating to the use of social media and contest.

Chair Selase announced that his agency is having an Opioid “Round table” on March 2nd. Chair Selase related that one of the speakers will be the Northern District Attorney.

Angene Coleman announced that her agency will be doing a “Health Fair” on February 24th.

Chair Selase Announced that the next meeting will be on May 5, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by
Bruce Kimble MS LPC-S AADC ICADC-D
Secretary of SPAB

CHAIR:

- Establish and develop a rapport with board members.
- Keep Vice-Chair abreast of proceedings in the event Vice Chair must act on behalf of Chair.
- Work directly with ADMH Director of Prevention to draft annual goals.
- Develop meeting agendas and chair meetings.
- Review and approve reports.
- Assign tasks to members.
- Serve as a liaison between members and Office of Prevention Staff and/or Prevention Providers.
- Make recommendations, provide updates, and make recommendations to the board.
- Performs other task as assigned or encouraged by Director of Office of Prevention (i.e. Represent Board at meetings, community events and or conferences when necessary).

VICE-CHAIR:

- Establish and develop rapport with board members.
- Report to the Board Chair.
- Work closely with Chair and assist with orientation of new members and/or transition of officers.
- Act on behalf of the Chair in their absence.

SECRETARY:

- Work closely with Chair to stay abreast of board activities and prepare reports as necessary.
- Effectively maintain, manage and organize board records.
- Ensure the Office of Prevention has a copy of all board records and activities.
- Manages minutes of the board and submit to members for approval.